Closing Down of the Units in GRSE

914. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Garden Reach Ship builders and Engineers Ltd., Calcutta, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, has decided to close down a number of its units;

(b) if so, what are those units and what they produce; and

(c) whether such a step is likely to result in curtailment or redundancy of a portion of labour force now working in the factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Certain unprofitable lines of production in Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., will be wound up in order to improve the Company's overall performance.

(b) These relate basically to engineering items like cranes.

(c) There is no intention to retrench any workers provided they can be retrained and redeployed.

Proposal for setting up a Power Plant in Bakreswar in West Bengal

915. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for setting up a power plant in Bakreswar in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what is the likely capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Government of West Beingal propose to set up a thermal power plant at Bakreswar with a capacity of 3x210 MW (Stage I).

Reservoirs of River Dams in the Country

916. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA.
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of siltation has been far more than anticipated at the time of formulation of the projects in all the reservoirs of river dams in the country and as a reult, the life expectancy of these reservoirs is likely to be drastically reduced; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Surveys conducted so far indicate that the rate of siltation is higher than that assumed at their planning stage. This is not expected to reduce drastically the designed service life of the projects.

(b) Twenty-eight reservoir catchments are receiving soil conservation treatment under the centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Agriculture under which measures such as afforestation, economic plantation and raising of utility trees contour bunding, terracing, check dams and pasture development which reduce soil erosion and consequent siltation are included. Increased stress is being laid on afforestation. States are also advised to take similar measures on their own.

Villagers of Bara Gagari Village Near Ranchi—Victims of Lethiarisis' Disease

917. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news item which appeared